GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:978
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have commissioned a study in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) to identify wastelands in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the study was commissioned and the findings thereof;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to control the spread of wasteland; and

(e) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard with particular reference to role of States in the development of wasteland ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a),(b) & (c) The National Wastelands Development Boardset up earlier under the Ministry of Environment & Forests,had commissioned a study in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, in December,1986 to identify district-wise wastelands in the country using Remote Sensing Satellite Data on 1:50,000 scale.Initially 146 districts were undertaken for this purpose in Phase I & II. Remaining districts were covered in phase III, IV & V on periodicalbasis. The study has since been completed and Wasteland Atlas of India has been brought in March,2000. As per this Atlas, the total extent of wastelands (covering 13 categories) in the country is 63.85 million ha. The category-wise details of wastelands are given at Annexure.

(d) & (e) The Department of Land Resources addresses the task of developing wastelands and degraded lands aimed at checking land degradation, putting such lands into productive use and increasing the availability of bio-mass specially fuel wood and fodder through three major programmes namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP).

These programmes are being implemented through watershed approach as per Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.95. Since then, 192 watershed projects under IWDPto develop an area of 18.22 lakh hectares, 8335 projects under DPAP to develop an area of 41.68 lakh hectares and 3694 projects under DDP to develop an area 18.47 lakh hectares have been sanctioned and are under implementation on 31.3.2000. In addition, 57 projects under IWDP to develop an area of 6.1 lakh hectares, 1685 projects under DPAP to develop an area of 8.43 lakh hectares and 886 projects under DDP to develop an area of 4.43 lakh hectares have been sanctioned during 2000-2001.

Watershed projects under these programmes are sanctioned in favour of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/ Zilla Parishads (ZPs) which are implemented by various line departments of State Governments, NGOs etc. as Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). The Guidelines for Watershed Development provide for constitution of State Watershed Programme implementation and Review Committees at State level to coordinate and review the implementation of the watershed projects under the three Programmes.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a), (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.978 FOR REPLY ON 27.02.2001.

STATEMENT SHOWING CATEGORY-WISE WASTELANDS OF INDIA

Sl.No.	Category	Total Wastelands	% of total Geographical Area covered.

1. Gullied and/or Ravinous land	20553.35	0.65
2. Land with or without scrub	194014.29	6.13
3. Waterlogged and Marshy land	16568.45	0.62
4. Land affected by salinity/ alkaninity	20477.38	0.65
5. Shifting Cultivation Area	35142.20	1.11
6. Under utilised/degraded notified forest land.	140652.31	4.44
7 Degraded pastures/grazing land	25978.91	0.82
8. Degraded land under plantation crop.	5828.09	0.18
9. Sands-inland/Coastal	50021.65	1.58
10. Mining/Industrial wastelands	1252.13	0.04
11. Barren rocky/stony waste/sheet rock area	64584.77	2.04
12. Steep sloping area	7656.29	0.24
13. Snow covered and/or galcial	5588.49	1.76
Total Wasteland Area	638518.31	20.17

Note : 1,20,849.00 Sq .Kms in Jammu & Kashmir is not mapped and hence not considered for calculating the percentage.